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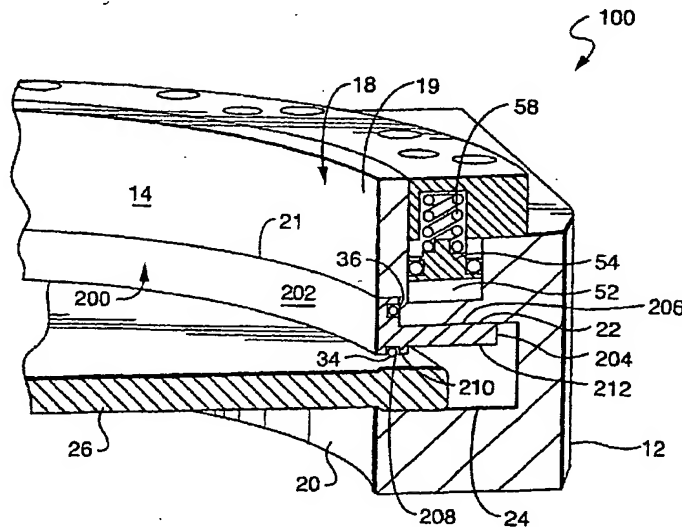
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: VALVE ASSEMBLY HAVING IMPROVED CONDUCTANCE CONTROL



(57) Abstract: A valve assembly including a housing having a flow channel and an annular surface surrounding the flow channel, a slide plate movable to a closed position, and a seal ring positioned between the annular surface and the slide plate. The seal ring includes a first and second sides, a first surface extending between the first and the second sides and facing towards the annular surface of the housing, and a second surface axially spaced from the first surface and extending between the first and the second sides and facing towards the slide plate. The second surface includes a continuous annular sealing portion for contacting the slide plate when the seal ring is biased against the slide plate so that a fluid-tight seal can be formed between the continuous annular sealing portion and the slide plate, and at least one passageway positioned between the annular sealing portion and the second side.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/25888

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC(7) : F16K 3/00 US CL : 251/364, 301, 302, 326, 328, 173; 277/460, 465 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) U.S. : 251/364, 301, 302, 326, 328, 173; 277/460, 465 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) EAST		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 3,401,915 A (KIM) 17 September 1968 (17.10.1968), figures 2-5.	1, 8-9, and 41-43
X	US 5,577,707 A (BRIDA) 26 November 1996 (26.11.1996), figure 3.	1, 8-9, 11-13, 21, 41, and 44
Y		14-15 and 45
Y	US 6,409,149 B1 (MAHER, JR.) 25 June 2002 (25.06.2002), column 4, lines 30-57.	14-15
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.		
* Special categories of cited documents:		
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention	
"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone	
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art	
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family	
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		
Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report	
12 April 2005 (12.04.2005)	10 MAY 2005	
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	Authorized officer John Bastianelli Telephone No. (571) 272-3750	

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Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☒ Claims Nos.: 16-20 and 22-40
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
The fasteners are not disclosed in the drawings and are not understood in the specification. It is not understood how the fasteners are attached.
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
Please See Continuation Sheet

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☒ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.: 1-15, 21 and 41-45

Remark on Protest ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

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BOX III. OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION IS LACKING

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In order for all inventions to be examined, the appropriate additional examination fees must be paid.

Group I, claim(s) 1-21 and 41-45, drawn to a valve.

Group II, claim(s) 22-40, drawn to a seal ring.

The inventions listed as Groups I and II do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: The valve is directed to a valve and the seal ring is directed to a seal ring.

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